DEC 2 1 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

GROUP ART UNIT: 3732

Guy L. Clifton

EXAMINER: David C. Comstock

SERIAL NO.: 10/068,221

FILED: February 6, 2002

FOR: Retractor And/Or Distractor

For Anterior Cervical Fusion

ATTY DOCKET NO.: 26060/06

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents MAIL STOP RESPONSES P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Non-Final Office Action of December 24, 2003, the following

Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted.

RECEIVED

JAN 1 8 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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